

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, this morning my Governor, Governor Abbott of Texas, sent a letter to President Obama: "I write to inform you that the State of Texas will not accept any refugees from Syria in the wake of the deadly attacks in Paris."

This tragedy on Friday follows quickly behind Secretary Kerry's announcement that the United States will be taking in an unprecedented number of refugees.

Last month the Helsinki Commission, of which I am a member, held a hearing. Assistant Secretary of State Anne Richards said that refugees were fleeing to Europe because they perceived those borders to be open.

Madam Speaker, there can be no perception that our borders are open. During my questioning last month, it became clear to me that we do not have the procedures in place to perform adequate and thorough background checks on refugees.

President Obama is engaged in what may be best described as magical thinking. Certainly, it is a fragmented strategy to combat ISIS.

The world held a moment of silence this morning. We should not be silent on this issue any longer.

#### WE STAND WITH FRANCE

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, as we saw on Friday, as most Americans were perhaps heading home for the weekend, at least 129 innocent civilians were killed by terrorists in Paris.

One of the attacks took place at a Paris concert hall, where a band from Palm Desert, California, was scheduled to play.

Nohemi Gonzalez, an American and 23-year-old junior at California State University, Long Beach, was doing a semester abroad and was killed while having dinner with her classmates.

Madam Speaker, our thoughts, our prayers, our hearts go out to the families of the victims and the people of France. We stand with the French people, just as they stood with us after 9/11 and so many other times in our past, going back to our founding as a nation.

This attack was a deliberate attempt to use violence and the destruction of innocent lives as a means of spreading a hateful ideology against the world. ISIS must be defeated and destroyed, not contained.

Madam Speaker, we hear rhetoric coming from this administration that global warming is the greatest threat. Indeed. Tell that to the families, the victims of what happened in Paris.

#### CHAMPIONS OF FREEDOM WILL NOT BE STOPPED

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 13, the world was reminded once again that freedom has its foes when Islamic State militants killed 129 people and injured hundreds more in coordinated terrorist attacks in Paris.

As we mourn those whose lives were lost and pray for the people of France as they confront this terrible tragedy, we must let the adversaries of liberty know that champions of freedom will not be stopped. We will not waver, we will not cede strength, and we will stand firm.

Today a video released by an Islamic State subgroup appears to show militants praising the Paris attacks and warning that a similar attack could take place in Washington.

Congress will continue to explore ways in which we can defeat Islamic State, but it is time for President Obama, who told ABC News on Friday that we "have contained" Islamic State, to take seriously this threat to our Nation and all that we stand for.

#### MELANEY SMITH AND BOOKS FOR KEEPS

(Mr. COLLINS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent in my district who has made a difference in the lives of many students.

In 2009, Melaney Smith met a little girl in Athens, Georgia, who loved to read but had no books at home to read over the summer vacation. After realizing this little girl was one of many children in this situation, Melaney decided to start Books for Keeps, a non-profit dedicated to keeping children engaged in reading by giving them books to take home over the summer. In the 6 years since its founding, Books for Keeps has donated 185,000 books to children in 10 schools, and Melaney has plans to expand it to 15 more next year.

Many children in rural Georgia don't have regular access to libraries, especially during the summer vacation. Location and access to transportation pose a difficulty for many, especially low-income students.

Being married to a schoolteacher, I am sure my wife can attest to the frustration teachers feel when August rolls around and they have to spend precious class time reviewing and catching up before they can move on.

Every year in May, Books for Keeps sends kids off to summer vacation armed with a variety of titles tailored to their interests to entertain and challenge them over the break. We have Melaney Smith from Athens, Georgia, to thank for her initiative to encourage literacy and to inspire students.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL) laid before the House the fol-

lowing communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, November 5, 2015.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
*The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,*  
*House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 5, 2015 at 2:05 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S.J. Res. 22.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, November 6, 2015.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
*The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,*  
*House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 6, 2015 at 9:38 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 24.

That the Senate agreed to (relative to the death of Fred Thompson) S. Res. 309.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 92.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, November 10, 2015.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 10, 2015 at 11:20 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1004.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives: